(a) whether it is a fact that diversion of a channel of Brahmaputra at Matmora in Dhakuwankhana area of Assam is under serious threat of erosion and heavy silt deposition covering large area of cultivable land to desert as reported;

(b) if so, the details of immediate measures taken by State and Central Government to protect the flood affected people and their livestock by rehabilitating them;

(c) whether any Central package has been declared for these flood and erosion affected people; and

(d) if so, the details of utilization in Assam by State Government and beneficiaries till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As informed by the State Government of Assam, a breach had occurred during July 2008, in the embankment of river Brahmaputra at Matmara in Dhakuwakhana area of Assam and consequently, the flood water entered through this breach to country side causing severe erosion and depositing huge volume of silt on paddy fields thereby converting cultivable land barren and desert in almost all the inundated areas of Matmara. The flood water affected about 30,620 families covering 139 villages.

(b) As an immediate measures, the State Govt of Assam sanctioned *ex-gratia* grant at the rate of Rs.2,000 per affected family and an amount of Rs.4.67 crore was distributed. Gratuitous relief to the flood affected families was also distributed as reported by the State Government.

(c) In order to close the above breach, the State Govt of Assam submitted a scheme "Raising & strengthening to Brahmaputra dyke from Sissikalghar to Tekliphuta including closing of breach by retirement and anti erosion measures (to protect Majuli and Dhakuakhana areas against flood devastation by the Brahmaputra)" with an estimated cost Rs. 142.42 crore for implementation with Central assistance which was approved and included under "Flood Management Programme" by Government of India for Central assistance (with 90% Central grant). The first instalment of Central assistance amounting to Rs.99 crore was released to the State Government of Assam in March, 2009.

(d) As reported by the State Government, an amount of Rs.35 crore has been utilized by the State Government of Assam from the Central grant of Rs.99 crore released in March, 2009 for closure of the breach.

Modernisation programme for Armed Forces

463. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is pursuing a modernization programme for the Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take up the restructuring of the Armed Forces to allow for better coordination and reduced duplication/overlap of work amongst the three services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Modernization of Afmed Forces is a continuous process based on threat perception, technological changes and available resources.

To synergize and optimize the capabilities of the three Services for joint war fighting, restructuring of Armed Forces is underway. The three Services have taken steps towards achieving jointness in various operational, training and administrative fields and significant strides have been made in this regard. The Long Term Perspective Plans of the three Services are analyzed and suitably merged to evolve a Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, thus avoiding duplication and overlap of effort and achieving better coordination and synergy amongst the three Services.

Laying of Kelkar Committee Report on the Table of Houses of Parliament

464. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vijay Kelkar Committee submitted its report in two parts, *inter-alia* making recommendation on the funding of the Ordnance Factory Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that after consideration of the Report, Government has accepted 26 out of 36 of its recommendations, but the Report has not been laid in Parliament; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposed to lay the same in Parliament; if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) The Report of the Kelkar Committee was submitted to the Government of India in two parts. Part-I deals with strengthening self reliance in defence preparedness. This part contains 40 recommendations, out of which 30 have been implemented. Of the balance, 1 has been dropped and 9 are presently under examination. Part-II deals with revitalizing defence public sector undertakings and ordnance factories. Out of the total 19 recommendations in this part, 5 have been implemented, while in the case of 11 recommendations no further action is envisaged. Of the balance, 2 are under examination, while 1 has been dropped. The Report of the Kelkar Committee is not being laid in Parliament as it deals with details on matters which are of a sensitive nature and have a bearing on national security.

Crashes of fighter aircrafts

465. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of modern fighter aircrafts inducted for National Defence has been lost in series of crashes;

(b) if so, the details of crashes during the last one year;

(c) whether any specific reason have been identified for such crashes; and

(d) if so, the remedial actions thereof, and policy of Government thereon?